# Information Technology (IT) Initiative Business Case Responses for BYs 2003 & 2004

Please type your responses in the white answer blocks provided and return the electronic copy of this document to Treva Lutes by April 26<sup>th</sup>. Please do not modify the shaded rows of the table. These rows contain special codes that we will use to populate a database automatically.

# 1.0 General Background

1.1 Initiative Name

**FSA Portals** 

## 1.2 Initiative Description

In FY2001, FSA developed a web portal for School partners (the Schools Portal) that enables financial aid administrators to interact with FSA electronically.

In FY2002, FSA invested in the initial development of a single web portal with views specific to its Students and Financial Partner customers (the FSA Students Portal and the FSA Financial Partners Portal). The Students and Financial Partners portals bring together information and productivity tools necessary for FSA's customers, employees, and partners to make informed financial aid decisions. These portals also create a common architecture standard that utilizes FSA's integrated technical architecture (ITA) to enable FSA to integrate its existing web sites (e.g. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), and Direct Loan Servicing System (DLSS) etc.) and external sites (Mapping-your-future.com, finaid.org etc.) into the portals. These two portals also utilize FSA's common look and feel and provide users with a consistent and seamless online experience.

The goal of this business case is to enhance the present FSA portals and continue to strengthen FSA's web presence by:

- Updating the current Schools Portal to enable it to capitalize on FSA's integrated architecture, consistent look and feel, and to bring it into compliance with Section 508 regulations, thus creating a Schools view within the existing portal.
- Enhance the Students portal to allow greater functionality, such as increasing early awareness of financial aid opportunities available to students based on specific criteria. This information can also be automatically transferred to students' online FAFSA applications.
- Integrate other FSA websites (i.e. Loan Servicing, Collections, etc.) into the Students Portal, allowing students to log in to the Students Portal using their Department of Education/FSA issued electronic Personal Identification Number (PIN). This would allow student users to receive a "snapshot" view of their account information through a web browser.
- Provide Financial Partner users with an online search tool for previous interest rates within the Financial Partners Portal.
- Implement a single Enterprise Information Portal from which the Schools, Students and Financial Partners Portals can be accessed. This single URL will be the "glue" that bonds all of FSA's web services together, providing a uniform starting point for customers to access FSA. Each of the three aforementioned portals will be a "view" within this single FSA Portal.

1.3 Initiative Type				
Financial M	Business Process Support System Financial Management System Non-Financial Management System			
	ystem lanagement System cial Management System			
IT Infrastructure IT Services General Office Auto	omation			
1.4 Contact Inform	ation			
	Name	Principal Office	Phone Number	
Project Manager	Steve Allison	FSA	(202) 377-3536	
Program Manager	Connie Davis	FSA	(202) 377-3520	
Project Sponsor	Jennifer Douglas Kay Jacks John Reeves	FSA FSA FSA	(202) 377-3200 (202) 377-4286 (202) 377-3301	
Contracting Officer	Janet Scott	FSA	(202) 377-3377	
Contracting Officer's Representative	Carol Seifert	FSA	(202) 377-3506	
2.0 Busines	s Process			
2.1 Business Prod	cess Support			
Grants Evaluation Research X Information Dissemination Enforcement Resource Management & Administration Loans Other:	Schools and Financial Partners Portal views.  n tion ent			
2.2 Business Prob	lem or Opportunity and Causi	ng Conditions		

A single FSA Portal is deemed necessary due to the following current conditions of FSA websites:

- No single starting point for FSA customers
- No uniform common look and feel for FSA web site(s)
- Inconsistent standards and architecture
- No common customer care component across all sites
- No single point of access (via the internet) to FSA programs
- Information is hard to find across multiple sources
- No single point of contact for students to get account information
- No single point for students or parents to gather information on aid available to them
- No timely method for Financial Partners to gather interest rate information

#### 2.3 Existing Systems

The current portals owned by FSA are channel specific and are:

- School (http://sfa4schools.sfa.ed.gov/SFAPortal/home/index1.htm)
- Student (http://studentaid.ed.gov in Production 05/07/2002)
- Financial Partner (http://fp.ed.gov in Production 04/30/2002)

#### 2.4 Solution Impact

(If this is an implemented initiative with no enhancements, then address item (3) only)

(1)

#### Impact on Organizational Functions and Business Processes:

The enhancements outlined in this Business Case will increase information sharing and communications across all internal communities, as well as externally across various roles at guaranty agencies, lenders, third party vendors, schools and students. The FSA Portals will reduce the number of FSA's disparate and diverse web sites and consolidate key sites and information into an accessible portal.

(2)

#### Impact on Other IT Initiatives:

This initiative affects the FSA Consistent Answers initiative, Enterprise Technical Architecture (EAI) Release initiative, and the Integrated Technical Architecture (ITA) Services and Support initiative.

(3)

#### Stakeholders:

Stakeholders are the Office of Federal Student Aid, the Department of Education, Students, Parents, Schools and Financial Partners including loan servicers, guaranty agencies, and lenders.

(4)

#### User Involvement:

This initiative has and will continue to involve the members of the Financial Partners and Students communities in the design and planning phases of the effort. In addition, members of these communities will be involved in testing the systems and any pilots.

(5)

## **Change Management:**

It is anticipated that these enhancements will lead to the adoption of new ways of working and changes in the current business processes in the way schools financial aid administrators do business and how students will interact with FSA.

# 2.5 Business Process Reengineering

(Applies only to New Business Process Support and Program Delivery Systems)

This solution will allow customer service employees to access the same snapshot of student accounts as the student by utilizing the integrated customer service platform and a consistent data architecture furthered by other FSA IT initiatives. In addition, employees internal to FSA will find their information gathering process to be more efficient once all of the information can be found through a single starting point.

#### 2.6 Mandatory Requirement

None.

#### 2.7 Consequence of Not Funding the Initiative

- Customer service would be adversely affected without a central point of reference for finding consistent information
- Miss opportunity to support GPEA

# 3.0 Strategic Alignment

## 3.1 OMB E-Government Initiative Alignment

Consolidated Health Information Disaster Assistance and Crisis Response E-Authentication E-Grants E-Payroll/HR E-Training E-Travel E-Vital Electronic Records Management Eligibility Assistance Online Expanding Electronic Tax Products for Businesses EZ Tax Filing Federal Asset Sales Federal Asset Sales Federal Anset Sales Federal Anset Sales Integrated Acquisition Environment Integrated Human Resources/e-Clearance International Trade Process Streamlining One Stop Business Compliance Information Online Access for Loans Online Rulemaking Management Recreation One Stop Recruitment One Stop USA Services Wireless Public Safety Interoperable Communications – Project SAFECOM
_x_None of the Above
2.2 Mission Alignment
3.2 Mission Alignment

- Goal 1: Create a Culture of Achievement
Objective 1.1 Link federal education funding to accountability for results.
Objective 1.2 Increase flexibility and local control.
Objective 1.3 Increase information and options for parents.
Objective 1.4 Encourage the use of scientifically based methods within federal education programs.
- Goal 2: Improve Student Achievement
Objective 2.1 Improve reading achievement for all students.
Objective 2.2 Improve math and science achievement for all students.
Objective 2.3 Improve the performance of all high schools.
Objective 2.4 Improve teacher quality.
- Goal 3: Develop Safe Schools and Strong Character
Objective 3.1 Ensure that our nation's schools are safe and drug-free and that students are free of alcohol,
tobacco, and other drugs.
Objective 3.2 Promote strong character and citizenship among our nation's youth.
- Goal 4: Transform Education into an Evidence-Based Field
Objective 4.1 Raise the quality of research funded or conducted by the Department.
Objective 4.2 Increase the relevance of our research in order to meet the needs of our customers.
- Goal 5: Enhance the Quality of and Access to Postsecondary & Adult Education
Objective 5.1 Close the college participation and graduation gaps between low-income and minority students
and their peers.
Objective 5.2 Strengthen accountability of postsecondary institutions.
Objective 5.3 Establish effective funding mechanisms for postsecondary education.
Objective 5.4 Strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribal
College and Universities.
Objective 5.5 Enhance the literacy skills of American adults.
- Goal 6: Establish Management Excellence
Objective 6.1 Develop and maintain financial integrity within the Department and its programs and management
and internal controls.
Objective 6.2 Improve the strategic management of the Department's human capital.
_X_ Objective 6.3 Manage information technology resources, using e-gov, to improve service for our customers and
partners.
_X_ Objective 6.4 Continue to modernize the Student Financial Assistance programs and reduce their high-risk
status.
Objective 6.5 Achieve budget and performance integration to link funding decisions to results.
Objective 6.6 By demonstrating management excellence, receive the prestigious President's Quality Award.
None of the Above
3.3 Strategic Plan Strategies Supported
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#### Strategic Objective 6.3

#### Manage information technology systems to improve business and communications processes

- Provide customers the opportunity to conduct business with the Department online. Implement productivity improvements through implementation of e-gov applications, customer relationship management, supply chain management or knowledge management best practices.
- Ensure security of the IT infrastructure. Periodically update and validate the General Support Systems (GSS) and Major Applications (MA) inventory. For each GSS and MA, assure a current risk assessment and security plan and that certification and accreditation is in place.
- Reduce partners' data reporting burden. Minimize burden on our partners by reducing the number of
  information collections addressing similar issues. We will collect data once and use it in many ways. We
  will consolidate our data collections and data storage. With our stakeholders and customers, collaboratively
  build and publish data standards, including consensus data elements and definitions. The enterprise
  architecture will be structured to meet business needs.
- Complete enterprise architecture. Create a business focused enterprise architecture that describes long term information system requirements and prioritizes IT business needs based on Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives.

## Strategic Objective 6.4

#### Modernize the Federal Student Aid programs and reduce their high-risk status

- Create an efficient and integrated delivery system. We will use new technologies and integrate systems
  by eliminating, consolidating, and redesigning the thirteen current legacy systems to improve service, cut
  costs and reduce the improper payment of student aid funds.
- **Improve program monitoring.** The Department will strengthen financial management and internal controls so that relevant, timely information is available to manage day-to-day operations. We will improve technical assistance and increase program monitoring.

3.4 Quality Indicators
The Student, Parent, Schools and Financial Partners adoption rate of the Portals will be the number one tool used to measure the quality of the Portals. This solution's performance target is to increase electronic self-service adoption by 75%. The goal of this initiative is to drive customers to more cost effective interaction points.
4.0 Technology Initiative
4.1 Initiation Date
2000 (FY1999)
4.2 Initiative Deployment / Implementation Date
September 30, 2003 September 30, 2004
4.3 Initiative Phase
Under Development Maintenance OnlyX Maintenance with Enhancements
4.4 Initiative Scope
<ul> <li>The scope of this initiative includes the following:</li> <li>Design and develop enhancements to the three existing FSA Portals (Schools Portal, Financial Partners Portal, Students Portal)</li> <li>Integrate more internal and external websites into the FSA Portal.</li> <li>Create a single FSA Portal that will contain views to the three existing FSA Portals</li> </ul>
4.5 Assumptions, Constraints, and Dependencies
(1) N/A.
(2) A major constraint to this initiative is allocation of funds.
(3) This business case is dependant on EAI middleware technology continuing to provide an interface between existing FSA legacy systems and newly modernized FSA systems, as well as on the PIN Site Infrastructure effort, which seeks to update FSA's existing PIN site, allowing it to handle the projected increase in volume from FSA Student Portal users.
4.6 Outstanding Issues
None

4.7 Benefits
The FSA Portals Initiative will simplify the overall financial aid and information gathering process for FSA student, parent, school and financial partner customers by improving access to accurate and consistent information, thus allowing them to make informed decisions and to gather data in a more efficient way.  Some of the benefits of this solution include:  Self-service accounts for students through the Students Portal view.  A consolidated web presence for FSA sites, which will provide lower administration costs and higher customer and employee satisfaction, productivity and retention.  Improved communications, work processes, and information sharing within FSA that will simplify employee jobs, helping them make better decisions and work more productively.  Links to both external and internal websites within FSA will allow information to be accessed more quickly and easily.
4.8 Crosscutting Initiative
Entire Department Office for Civil Rights Office of Educational Research and Improvement Office of Educational Research and Improvement Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Office of English Language Acquisition Office of Postsecondary Education Office of Special Educational and Rehabilitation Services X_ Federal Student Aid Office of Vocational and Adult Education Office of the Chief Financial Officer Office of the Chief Information Officer Office of the General Counsel Office of Inspector General Office of Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs Office of Management Office of Public Affairs Entities outside of the Department
4.9 Audit Finding

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None

# 4.10 Alternatives Analysis

(This Applies Only To Initiatives Under Development or Being Implemented.)

Alternatives	Description	Total Life Cycle	Benefits	Drawbacks
	_	Costs		

Alternative 1 (Selected Alternative)	Enhance/Upd ate Current Portals, Create a single FSA Portal that links to three portal views.	FY2002: \$3.5M FY2003: \$2.95M FY2004: \$2.45M FY2005-07: \$1.35M (Maintenance Costs) Total LC Costs: \$10.3M	Simplify the overall financial aid process helping customers have better access to the correct, consistent information to make informed decisions.  Lower administration costs and higher customer and employee satisfaction, productivity and retention.  Improved communications, work processes, and information sharing simplifies employees' jobs, helping them make better decisions and work more productively.	None
Alternative 2	Remain As-Is	\$3.355M (FY2002 investment already made)	None	Inconsistent look and feel to the FSA portals. Limited Functionality. Continued separate growth of FSA web offerings. Increased maintenance costs for growing web sites.
Alternative 1 has been as to allow information  5.0 Enterprise	to be easily acce	essed.	periences with FSA Portals a	and other websites, as well
5.1 Use of COTS/GOT				
3.1 03c 01 00 13/G0 1		ge of COTS/GOTS Co	omponents:	
	0 - 25% _X_ 26 - 50 51 - 75 76 - 100 Not App	% % % 0%		
5.2 Consistency with			to and indicate non supports	d producto bolow)
(Please refer to Ap	penaix A to ideni	tiry supported produc	ts and indicate non-supported	a products below)
Websphere Internet an	nd Application Se	rver.		
5.3 Section 508 Comp	oliance			

(Accessibility)

- (1) No
- (2) No
- (3) The channel specific portals have incorporated the federal accessibility guidelines as requirements for designing and developing the portal presentation layer. These views meet Section 508 requirements where necessary and where identified. All enhancements and new additions to the portals will also be 508 compliant.

#### 5.4 Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA)

(Business Process Support and Program Delivery Systems only)

- (1) N/A
- (2) This initiative supports the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) by linking to GPEA sites, such as those allowing customers to fill out all financial aid forms on-line.
- (3) N/A

#### 5.5 Information Management

(Business Process Support and Program Delivery Systems only)

- (1) All Users students, schools, and financial partners
- (2) Once at the time of implementation
- (3) Based on the final design specifications for the FSA Portal, a determination will be made whether OMB Form 83-I is required. If so, it will be completed prior to implementation.

#### 5.6 Privacy

- (1) This initiative collects and maintains personally identifiable information.
- (2) A Privacy Act Notice has been prepared and is in the process of being published in the Federal Register.

#### 5.7 Security

(This question applies if the initiative meets the definition of major application or general support system as defined in OMB Circular A-130.)

Part 1 - a. (Please enter a date in the form of MM/DD/YYYY or N/C)

04/15/2002

Part 1 – b. (Please enter a date in the form of MM/DD/YYYY or N/A)

N/A

Part 1 - c.

N/A

Part 2 – a. (Please enter a date in the form of MM/DD/YYYY or N/C)

N/C

Part 2 – b. (Please enter a date in the form of MM/DD/YYYY or N/A)

08/30/2002

Part 2 - c.

The Department's deadline dates do not apply. This system is not reported to OMB for GISRA.

Part 3 – a. (Please enter a date in the form of MM/DD/YYYY or N/C)

N/C

Part 3 – b. (Please enter a date in the form of MM/DD/YYYY or N/A)

08/31/2002

Part 3 - c.

System security plan will be completed prior to implementation. The Department's deadline dates do not apply. This system is not reported to OMB for GISRA.

Part 4 – a. (Please enter a date in the form of MM/DD/YYYY or N/C)

N/C

Part 4 – b. (Please enter a date in the form of MM/DD/YYYY or N/A)

08/31/2002

Part 4 - c.

The Self-Assessment should be completed during the first June of operation.

Part 5 – a. (Please enter a date in the form of MM/DD/YYYY or N/C)

N/C

Part 5 – b. (Please enter a date in the form of MM/DD/YYYY or N/A)

08/31/2002

Part 5 - c.

Certification and Accreditation to be completed one month prior to implementation. The Department's deadline dates do not apply. This system is not reported to OMB for GISRA.

Part 6 – a. (Please enter a date in the form of MM/DD/YYYY or N/C)

N/C

Part 6 – b. (Please enter a date in the form of MM/DD/YYYY or N/A)

09/30/2002

Part 6 - c.

Certification and Accreditation will be completed prior to implementation.

To be completed during the PRR prior to implementation.

6.0 Risk and Pro	oject Manage	ment		
6.1 Risk Management				
Risk Category	Risk Description	Risk Probability	Risk Impact	Management Strategy
Strategic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Organizational/Change Management	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Project Resources (Financial, Personnel, etc.)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Project Management	Need dedicated FSA sponsor resource. FSA resources are spread very thin may impact project schedule.	Medium	May impact project schedule	Secure dedicated resources from the Students channel and Financial Partners channel
Business	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Data/Information	Historic Student Loan Interest rate information must be gathered.	Medium	May impact project schedule	Determine conversion effort during planning stage of project
Application	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Technology/Infrastructure	Pin Site Capacity	Medium	May impact implementation	Upgrade Pin Site capacity
Security	Logging in users to systems, especially the Students Portal using secure logins may pose security problems.	Low	May impact implementation	Determine log in capabilities.
Privacy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

# **6.2 Operational Performance Measures**

- Decrease the number of internal FSA websites. FSA currently has an estimated 100+ web sites.
- Increase the number of electronic visitors to FSA by providing self-service online capabilities.
- Decrease number of callers to call center by providing self-service online capabilities to users that they would normally have to call in for.
- Increase the number of concurrent users on the Students Portal to 10,000.

# 6.3 General Acquisition Strategy

- (1) Single Contract
- (2) This initiative will be contracted as Firm Fixed Price contract with the FSA Modernization Partner. The contract type is a Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) under GSA Schedule 70 Contract (GS-35F-4692G) implemented using Task Orders (FP, FP Share in Savings IF, and T&M)
- (3) N/A
- (4) The contract lasts from 9/7/99 9/30/02 with two 5 year options
- (5) **Project:** Modernization Partner **BPA #:** ED-99-DO-0002
- (6)-(10) N/A

# **APPENDIX A**

# Hardware

Personal Computers
Primary Support
Compaq Professional Pentium II (266 MHz or faster), minimum 64 MB of RAM, 3.0 GB of Hard Drive available
for OCIO configuration
Professional Dell Pentium II (266 MHz or faster), minimum 64 MB of RAM, 3.0 GB of Hard Drive available for
OCIO configuration
Secondary Support
As defined in OCIO non-standard workstation policy
Lautana
Laptops  Primary Support
Primary Support  Poll Bontium II (266 MHz or footor), minimum 64 MB of BAM, 2.0 CB of Hard Drive evailable for OCIO
Dell Pentium II (266 MHz or faster), minimum 64 MB of RAM, 3.0 GB of Hard Drive available for OCIO
configuration Toshiba Pentium II (266 MHz or faster), minimum 64 MB of RAM, 3.0 GB of Hard Drive available for OCIO
configuration
Secondary Support
As defined in OCIO non-standard workstation policy
As defined in OCIO non-standard workstation policy
Printers
Primary Support
HP LaserJet 5 and newer
Secondary Support
HP LaserJet 4
<u>Monitors</u>
Primary Support
17-inch or larger, capable of 1024x768 resolution
Personal Digital Assistants (PDA)
Primary Support
Blackberry RIM 957
Blackberry RIM 950
Secondary Support
IntelliSync
Microsoft ActiveSync 3.1 or newer
Software
Soliware
Client Operating Systems
Primary Support
Windows 2000 Professional Service Pack (SP)2
Secondary Support
As defined in OCIO non-standard workstation policy
Office Suites
Primary Support
Office 2000 Service Release (SR) 1A with Word 2000, Excel 2000, PowerPoint 2000, Access 2000
Anti-Virus Software
Primary Support
Norton AntiVirus 2000 Corporate Edition 7.5

<u>Communications</u>	
Primary Support	
Citrix ICA	
Secondary Support	
Citrix Winframe	
Terminal Emulation Software	
Primary Support	
Attachmate 6.5	
Database Clients	
Primary Support	
Oracle 8.1.7 Client	
Microstrategy 7	
Electronic Mail Software	
Primary Support	
Outlook 2000	
<del></del>	
Internet Browsers	
Primary Support	
Internet Explorer 5.5 SP1 (128-bit encryption	)
Secondary Support	
Netscape 4.x	
Helper Plug-Ins	
Primary Support	
Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 and newer	
RealPlayer 8.0 Intranet	
Project Management Software	
Primary Support	
Microsoft Project 2000	
TeamMate 2000	
Web/Desktop Publishing Software	
Secondary Support	
Adobe Illustrator 7.0	
Adobe PageMaker 6.5 and newer	
Adobe Photoshop 5.0	
Interwoven LaunchPad	
Macromedia Dreamweaver 2.0 and newer	
Macromedia Fireworks 2.0 and newer	
Macromedia FreeHand 7.0	
Macromedia HomeSite 4.0	
NetViz 4.0	
Publisher 2000	
<u>Groupware</u>	
Secondary Support	
Lotus Notes Client (all versions)	

Assistive Technology Software
Primary Support
Aladdin Genie CCTV
Dragon Systems NaturallySpeaking 4.0 and newer
Freedom Scientific JAWS for Windows 3.7
Gus Word Prediction
IBM Homepage Reader 2.5 and newer
NexCom 300 TTY modem, which requires an ISA slot
NexTalk/NTS, NXI Communications NTS 3.41 and newer
ZoomText Xtra Level 2 7.04 and newer
Secondary Support
• • • •
NXI Communications NexTalk for Windows
WinTalk modem
Driveinal Office Consisting of Applications
Principal Office-Specialized Applications
Primary Support
ARCHIBUS/FM-10
CARS
CCM Plus
CMIS
DACS
EDCAPS
EDICS
Folio Builder 4.2
Folio Views 4.2
HEATWEB 3.11
IAS
Method/1 GuideVersion 11
Monarch Professional 5.02
Ombusman Case Tracking System 2.0
Peer Review System
TRAINS
Secondary Support
CMTS
DLOS
Folio Views 3.11
GAPS
GPAS
IEFARS
OCR Electronic Library
OSERS Quick
PC Travel Drop Box
PEPS
PFIE
Response Phone System
SACONS
Total Access Agent
Network Operating Systems and Enterprise Software
Primary Support
Cisco IOS 12.1(5) (Router)
Cisco IOS 6.1(2) and newer (Switch)
Microsoft Exchange 5.5 SP4
Microsoft SMS 2.0 SP3
Microsoft NT Server 4.0 SP6a
Microsoft Windows 2000 Server SP2

Netscape Compass Server 3.0 (SPARC)
Netscape Enterprise Server 3.51 (SPARC)
Oracle 8.1.7
Raptor Firewall with PowerVPN Version 6.5
Solaris 2.6 (SPARC)
SQL Server 7.0 SP5
SQL Server 2000 SP1
Terminal Server 4.0 SP6a
Secondary Support
All versions of Linux
All versions of Lotus Notes
Microsoft Internet Information Server 4.0 and newer
SQL Server 6.5